

**CLAIMS**

1. A video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia processing device having a store for one or more output identifiers capable of being associated with or embedded into the processed output, wherein a change in the nature of the processing results in an identifier being taken from the said store and associated with or embedded into the processed output.
2. A video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia processing device having a store for one or more output identifiers capable of being associated with or embedded into the processed output, wherein a change in an identifier associated with or embedded into the input video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia material results in an identifier being taken from the said store and associated with or embedded into the processed output.
3. A processing device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the said store can be loaded via a unidirectional or bi-directional control interface.
4. A processing device according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the said store can be loaded via a data path associated with or embedded in the said processor's video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia input.
5. A processing device according to any preceding claim, wherein output identifiers are generated by a central computer, and wherein said processing device indicates usage of identifiers from said store to said central computer.
6. A processing device according to any preceding claim wherein synchronisation information is associated with each identifier taken from the store.
7. A processing device according to Claim 6, wherein the synchronisation information associated with each identifier is communicated to the central computer.

8. A video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia processing device having a data input for data associated with or embedded in the said processor's video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia input and a data output for data associated with or embedded in said processor's video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia output, characterised in that the said data inputs and outputs carry identifiers to be used to identify future processed versions of the processed video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia material.
9. A video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia processing device having a store for one or more output identifiers capable of being associated with or embedded into the processed output, wherein one or more of the stored identifiers that has not been associated with or embedded into the processed output is output on a data channel associated with or embedded into the processed output.
10. A video, audio, audiovisual or multimedia signal or file having associated with it or embedded in it a sequence of identifiers to be used to identify future processed versions of said signal or file.
11. A method for managing a plurality of media processing devices, said method comprising:  
providing at least some of the media processing devices with media identifier stores;  
generating at a central computer a plurality of unique media identifiers;  
distributing said media identifiers to said media processing device stores; and  
maintaining a record of media identifiers held in the store(s) of said at least one media processing device
12. A method according to Claim 11, wherein said media processing devices take media identifiers from their respective stores and associate or embed said media identifiers in processed media output, further comprising indicating usage of each media identifier in a processor to the central computer.

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13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein indicating usage of a media identifier comprises communicating to said central computer at least one of:
  - the identification of the media identifier used;
  - the number of media identifiers remaining in the store;
  - the identification of the media identifier previously embedded in the processed media output, if any;
  - the identification of the processing device in which the media identifier was used;
  - the time at which the media identifier was used.
14. A method, processing device or signal according to any preceding claim, wherein said media identifiers comprise UMIDs (SMPTE Unique Material IDs).